

cont'd

R⁴ is a radical as defined by R³ except for hydrogen.

In the first line of claim 23, please change "22" to --21--.

In the second line of claim 32, please change "22" to --21--.

Please add new claims 36-41 as follows:

B² ~~13~~₃₆ A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim ~~3~~¹ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

~~14~~₃₇ Method of inhibiting a retrovirus protease comprising administering a protease inhibiting amount of a composition of claim ~~36~~¹³.

~~15~~₃₈ Method of claim ~~37~~¹⁴ wherein the retrovirals protease is HIV protease.

~~16~~₃₉ Method of treating a retrovirus infection comprising administering an effective amount of a composition of claim ~~36~~¹³.

~~17~~₄₀ Method of claim ~~39~~¹⁶ wherein the retrovirals infection is an HIV infection.

~~18~~₄₁ Method for treating AIDS comprising administering an effective amount of a composition of claim ~~36~~¹³.

REMARKS

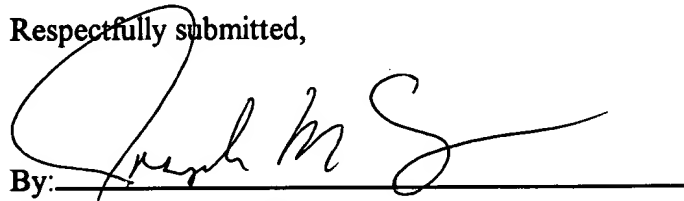
Independent claim 8 is amended to specify a particular stereochemical configuration for the recited formula. It is believed that no additional fee is due for entering this amendment. If a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 19-0733 for any deficiency.

Claim 8, dependent claims 21, 23-32 and new claims 36-41 are now pending for review. Support for the amendments to claim 8 can be found, *inter alia*, on page 3 (lines 22-30), page 19 (lines 25-32); page 23 (line 33) to page 24 (line 4); page 37 (lines 14-23); page 241 (line 25) to

page 242 (line 18), in original claim 8 and in many of the examples. Claims 36-41 are similar to some of the original claims 14-20.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 8, prior submitted claims 21, 23-32 and new claim 36-41 are patentable, and urge allowance of these claims and passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



By: _____

Joseph M. Skerpon
Registration No. 29,864

Date: February 24, 2000

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.
1001 G Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
202-508-9100
JMS/

H:\USR\SKERPON\WORK\SEARLE\2705\80234PRB.AMD